

Menominee Nation News

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Injured eagle found on reservation



MNN photo/M. Wilber

This young, injured bald eagle was found near the Chantell Otradovec residence, near South Branch. Tests will reveal the extent of injuries and recovery time.

By Mike Wilber
Menominee Nation News

An injured eagle was found on the Menominee Reservation on June 29 and was taken to the Raptor

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Johanns condemns Whiteclay violence, Indians want meeting

By JOSHUA KUCERA
Associated Press Writer

WHITECLAY, Neb.—If Nebraska's governor doesn't come here to address ridding this tiny town of alcohol, American Indians will stay until he does, an Indian activist said Monday.

Tom Poor Bear, of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, said he will write Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns and invite him to Whiteclay, population 22, on Saturday. The village was the scene of a riot over the weekend.

"We'll send him a respectful letter for him to come down and negotiate with us on closing down the alcohol establishments," Poor Bear said in an interview.

Last Saturday, a four-hour American Indian Movement rally led by Russell Means and Dennis

Banks protested the unsolved slayings of two men. It attracted an estimated 350 people and started peacefully in Pine Ridge, S.D., and ended with a two-mile walk to Whiteclay, where small fires were set in a grocery store that sells beer. The store also was vandalized.

"If them bars weren't there, a lot of our people, including my cousin and younger brother, would be alive today," Poor Bear said.

The bodies of Wilson Black Elk Jr., 40, and Ronald Hard Heart, 39, were found June 8 in a culvert south of Pine Ridge near the Nebraska border. They were reportedly last seen June 6, Poor Bear, who organized the rally, is Black Elk's older half-brother and Hard Heart's cousin.

On Monday in Lincoln, Johanns condemned the violence. But the state will use "whatever resources

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BadgerCare program to benefit uninsured families

BadgerCare's eligibility ensures access to health care for all children and parents in uninsured families with income below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Once enrolled, families may remain in BadgerCare until family income exceeds 200% of the FPL. No asset test is required. Families with income above 150% of the FPL pay a monthly premium of 3.5% of family income.

BadgerCare is projected to cover an additional 46,200 uninsured, low-income Wisconsin residents, including 23,900 children and 22,300 parents.

BadgerCare has several policies related to eligibility and purchasing which prevent crowd-out of private insurance. As required by federal law, families with health insurance will not be eligible for

BadgerCare. The state will also buy employer-sponsored health insurance for families according to the certain federal requirements.

BadgerCare benefits will be identical to the comprehensive package of benefits and services covered by Wisconsin Medicaid. The existing Wisconsin Medicaid HMO managed care system, including provisions for quality assurance, for improved health outcomes and for grievances, will be used for BadgerCare.

The total amount of funding for BadgerCare at full implementation is \$71.3 million - \$44.6 million in federal, \$21.3 million in state, and \$5.4 million in premium revenue. For more information contact your local W-2 office.

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4th of July Fireworks at Keshena Fairgrounds

This year's 4th of July fireworks display will once again be held at the Menominee Fairgrounds at the baseball diamond on Sunday, according to Rod Boivin, the Town of Menominee Fire Commissioner. The fireworks will begin at dusk. Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

Summer hours in effect at Tribal Office Headquarters

Office Summer hours are currently in effect to accommodate those customers who are unable to take care of business during the work day.

The following departments will be open from 7am-4:30 pm. throughout the summer until after the Labor Day holiday this fall.

- Menominee Nation News
- Management Information Services (MIS)
- Community Development
- Tribal Attorney
- Licensing and Permits
- Enrollment
- Tribal Prosecutor
- Finance

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EAGLE:

Center in Antigo for tests and treatment.

The female eagle, estimated to be between 2.5 and 3.5 years old, is apparently suffering lead poisoning, possibly after eating a waterfowl wounded from lead gunshot. It also has a dislocated or broken radial bone in its left wing. Further x-rays will reveal the extent of wing damage.

It was found near the Chantel Otradovec residence in the South Branch area of the reservation. Adrian 'Dusty' Miller, Menominee Conservation officer, said the lead poisoning likely caused disorientation when the eagle tried to land with a fish catch. The injured wing was probably caused by the eagle misjudging its landing and impacting the ground.

Miller reminds that lead shot is toxic and causes neurological damage to animals and is widely banned for waterfowl hunting. Menominee Tribal Ordinance 93-24 - Hunting Code says waterfowl hunting must be done with steel shot only.

A partially eaten northern pike was laying next to the eagle when it was found. After receiving a call from the Otradovecs, Miller put the eagle in a cage and fed it mice and chipmunks which it ate immediately. Miller said it's a good sign when an injured animal will eat right away. It is then likely to recover quickly.

However, tests were taken at the Raptor Center and the results, which should be available within a week, will determine if there is lead poisoning and how extensive the treatment will be. Miller learned the poisoning could require many treatments at a cost of \$85 to \$100 per treatment. The Raptor Center pays that cost, said Miller, and they only ask for donations from those who bring in injured birds-of-prey for treatment.

The Raptor Center is staffed by two MDs who have 34 years experience in treating raptors. If the eagle recovers fully, they assure they will work cooperatively with Menominee Conservation to return the eagle to its original habitat for release. Recovery time cannot be estimated until the test results are in.

Miller expressed confidence in the Raptor Center's handling of the birds and said the chance for full recovery is very promising. "These are some of the best people in the United States for bird recovery," he said.

Based on tail feather wear and weight loss, the Raptor Center estimated the eagle was grounded for at least five days before being found by the Otradovecs.

PROTEST:

are necessary to make sure people's rights are respected and the laws enforced," he said.

Johanns said he was willing to meet with Indian leaders and discuss their concerns but did not say whether he would go to Whiteclay. "I certainly extend an open door," he said. "If people want to meet with me ... I will try to be as accommodating as I can." The state can do little about alcohol sales in Whiteclay as long as the stores do not break the law, Johanns said.

Oliver Red Cloud, a traditional chief, said Monday he wants either Johanns or South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow to visit Whiteclay. If they don't, "It's going to be bigger than 1973," he said. Armed AIM members took over Wounded Knee, S.D., for 71 days in 1973.

Dale Looks Twice, one of the march organizers, said it was a coincidence it was held 10 days before a scheduled visit by President Clinton to the Pine Ridge Reservation. But it's good to have the national news media's attention, he said.

On a typical day, people travel to Whiteclay to buy beer. Then they run into friends and end up talking much of the day. Many end up staying wherever they can, asking friends and family for money.

Not much was happening in Whiteclay on Monday. Only two stores were open in the town, which technically has no bars. But four stores sell a total of \$3 million a year in beer over the counter. Residents were still talking about the riot.

Tim Hotz, owner of the Jack and Jill store, was there when the violence began. "People tried to kick down the doors, but some of the women in the march prevented that," he said. "Many of the marchers were from outside the area, were drunk and didn't know what they were doing," Hotz said, accusing Banks of inciting the people to riot. Banks said he did not mean for his statements to cause violence.

Pat Bourne, owner of the Fireside Inn restaurant, said it wouldn't make any difference if alcohol sales were shut down in Whiteclay. "We'll just have more dead people on the road because they'd just go to other area towns to get alcohol," said Bourne, who does not sell liquor. She said she likes her customers and gets along with them. Bourne said she and Hotz think the Pine Ridge police should be cross-deputized so they can help handle fights and drunkenness in Whiteclay.

Mildred Reeves, who runs the H&M Mini-Store, said tension has been building and that she's worried about violence. "If they don't find out who killed those guys, we're in trouble," said Reeves. Her grocery store sells beer.

Brian Sherman, of Pine Ridge, attended the march with his sons, ages 3 and 9, partly because of

Means, an actor. "He's been in a movie," Sherman said.

But he said he could tell things were getting ugly and left before the violence. "I figured something was going to happen, and I didn't want my boys to be around that," he said. He said he thinks people got angry because some Whiteclay business owners "act like they're all high and mighty. Many have become rich because of the money Indians spend there," Sherman said. He said he doesn't think Whiteclay will turn out like Wounded Knee.

Capt. Tom Parker of the Nebraska State Patrol said at least 11 patrol cars were in Whiteclay on Sunday. "We have enough to take care of things." Authorities said no arrests have yet been made following Saturday's violence but that evidence is being examined.